

INFORMAL REPORT

25X1A

FCP
654

COUNTRY Lebanon/Syria/Great Britain

DATE DISTR. 31 August 1948

SUBJECT Equipment for the Syrian Army Arrives
from Great Britain

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1. The Syrian Ministry of Defense has purchased certain items of equipment and supplies from British merchants, with the aid of Colonel J. Gordon Fox, British Military Adviser to the Syrian Defense Ministry. Colonel Fox was sent by air to London to help purchase this equipment, under the supervision of the Syrian Legation in London.
2. The shipment was handled by the General Shipping and Forwarding Company and arrived in Beirut on the ship CENTAURUS on 8 August. On 9 August the ship was boarded by a Syrian Army representative and a United Nations representative in French Army uniform. With the permission of the ship's master, the UN representative inspected the manifest. The whole cargo, marked "In Transit Damascus," was later unloaded into customs' warehouses to be cleared without payment upon arrival of the original bills of lading and invoices.
3. The equipment is needed by the Syrian Defense Ministry before 1 September in order to equip the first of the regiments which will be called to arms under the new conscription law.
4. The above-mentioned shipment was composed of the following items:

23 cases	Battery charging sets and wireless sets.
231 packages	Wireless sets, field telephones and dry batteries.
18 packages	Shirts and shorts.
1 bale	Trousers.
132 packages	Water bottles, tent-poles, tents, corks, kitbags and ground sheets.
289 packages	Overcoats, battledress blouses, suits, trousers, buttons etc.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

117 packages

Medical supplies.

248 packages

Blankets, sleeping bags, and
haversacks.

187 packages

Boots and socks.

10

Reconditioned ambulances.

6. The total weight of the shipment was 156 tons.

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